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New subspecies of forest birds from Tanzania

by F. P. Jensen & S. N. Stuart

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During 1981 a number of visits were paid by ornithologists to Mwanihana Forest (36° 50'E, 7° 45'S), a previously unstudied mountain forest on the eastern scarp of the Uzungwa Mountains, eastern Tanzania. Range extensions and some other notable records, together with a description of the area, have been documented elsewhere (Stuart *et al.* 1981, Stuart & Jensen 1982). In the present paper we revise the subspecies of *Buccanodon olivaceum* in Tanzania and describe 4 new subspecies of birds from the Mwanihana Forest.

GREEN BARBET *Buccanodon olivaceum*

Britton (1980) recognises 4 subspecies of the Green Barbet *Buccanodon olivaceum* in Tanzania. The nominate form ranges from the Tana River, south along the Kenya coast to the Usambara and Nguru Mountains in Tanzania. Specimens from Mahenge, eastern Tanzania, have also been assigned to this subspecies. Ripley & Heinrich (1969) described *uluguruensis* from the Uluguru Mountains. The subspecies *rungweensis* occurs in the highlands at the north end of Lake Malawi from Umalila and Isoko in Tanzania to the Misuku Hills in Malawi; while *woodwardi* is known from Nchingidi in southeast Tanzania and the Ngoye Forest in Natal, South Africa. A fifth subspecies, *belcheri,* occurs in southern Malawi on Thyolo (Cholo) Mt. and in northern Mozambique on Namuli Mt. (White 1965). Clancey (1979a) placed this species in a new genus *Cryptolybia,* and separated *woodwardi* as a species of *Cryptolybia,* Woodward's Barbet. Subsequently he shows convincingly that birds from Nchingidi are different from the nominate subspecies *C. w. woodwardi* of Ngoye Forest (Clancey 1979b) and he assigns birds from southeastern Tanzania to a new subspecies *C. w. hylophona.* We follow Clancey in all these changes except that for the time being we prefer to retain both *olivaceum* and *woodwardi* in the genus *Buccanodon.*

We compared a series of nominate *B. o. olivaceum* from the Usambaras, Ngurus and Kilifi on the Kenya coast with 5 males and 6 females from the Ulugurus. We believe there to be no justification for recognising a separate

subspecies *uluguruensis*, and prefer to assign Uluguru birds to the nominate form. None of the differences between *uluguruensis* and nominate birds described by Ripley & Heinrich (1969) were found to be valid or consistent in our comparison. Three specimens from Mahenge in the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH) were, however, found to be strikingly different from the nominate form, but indistinguishable from a specimen collected in Mwanihana Forest. These 2 localities, 100km apart, are geographically intermediate between the ranges of the nominate subspecies and *rungweensis*. Mahenge and Mwanihana birds differ from all other subspecies of *B. olivaceum,* and we propose that they be assigned to a new subspecies:

Buccanodon olivaceum howelli subsp. nov.

Type: Adult female collected on 17 September 1981 by S. N. Stuart, K. M. Howell and T. A. van der Willigen in Mwanihana Forest, Uzungwa Mts., Tanzania. Elevation 1350m. No. 1981.9.4. BMNH. Prepared by C. A. Msuya.

Diagnosis: Differs from the nominate form and *rungweensis* in having a far darker head and throat, with the cap virtually black, as opposed to grey. There is also a slight, but rather variable, golden tinge on the sides of the breast. Apart from the darker cap it also differs from *rungweensis* in lacking the grey breast. It is markedly different from both *belcheri,* which has a black throat and chest, and *B. woodwardi* which has distinct yellow ear coverts. We detected no differencies between males and females.

Measurements of type (mm): Wing (chord) 86, tail 52, tarsus 18.8, culmen from base 19.0.

Range: The type locality, Mwanihana Forest on the eastern scarp of the Uzungwa Mts., Kilombero District, Morogoro Region and the Mahenge Mts., Mahenge District, Morogoro Region, eastern Tanzania.

Specimens examined:

B. o. olivaceum (23). Kilifi, coastal Kenya, 1♀ (BMNH); Amani, East Usambaras, Tanzania, 4♂♂, 3♀♀ (BMNH); Nguru Mts, Tanzania, 3♂♂ (BMNH) and 1♀ Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen (ZMC); Uluguru Mts, Tanzania, 5♂♂, 5♀♀ (ZMC) and 1♀ (BMNH).

B. o. rungweensis (5). Isoko, Rungwe, Tanzania 1♂, 2♀♀ (BMNH); Matipa, Misuku, Malawi 1♂, 1♀ (BMNH).

B. o. belcheri (11). Thyolo Mt, Malawi 1♂, 2♀♀ (BMNH); Namuli Mt, Mozambique 2♂♂, 6♀♀ (BMNH).

B. o. howelli (4). Mwanihana Forest, Tanzania (type) 1♀ (BMNH); Muhulu Forest, Mahenge, Tanzania 2♂♂, 1♀ collected by R. E. Moreau on 30.1.1946 and 15.2.1946 (BMNH).

B. w. woodwardi (1). Echowe, Zululand, South Africa 1 unsexed (BMNH).

Remarks: This new subspecies is common in the type locality over a wide altitudinal span from 600m to at least 1500m. We have named this new form after Dr K. M. Howell, one of the collectors of the type specimen.

YELLOW-STREAKED GREENBUL

Phyllastrephus flavostriatus uzungwensis subsp. nov.

Type: Adult female, ovary active, collected on 18 September 1981 by S. N. Stuart, K. M. Howell and T. A. van der Willigen in Mwanihana Forest, Uzungwa Mts, Tanzania. Elevation 1400m. No. 1981.9.2.BMNH. Specimen prepared by C. A. Msuya.

Diagnosis: This form is identical to *tenuirostris* except that the yellow streaking merges on the belly to form a bright yellow patch. It differs from all other subspecies in the same way as does *tenuirostris* (as defined, for example, by White 1962).

Measurements of type (mm): Wing (chord) 88, tail 89, tarsus 18.9, culmen from base 20.0.

Range: Only known from the type locality, Mwanihana Forest, on the eastern scarp of the Uzungwa Mts, Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, eastern Tanzania.

Specimens examined:

P. f. flavostriatus (22). 9♂♂, 13♀♀ (BMNH).
P. f. alfredi (33). 16♂♂, 17♀♀ (BMNH).
P. f. olivaceogriseus (5). 3♂♂, 2♀♀ (BMNH).
P. f. vincenti (18). 7♂♂, 11♀♀ (BMNH).
P. f. kungwensis (6). 4♂♂, 2♀♀ (BMNH).
P. f. tenuirostris (63). Amani, Tanzania 17♂♂, 34♀♀; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 1♂, 1♀; Nguru Mts, Tanzania 1♂; Pugu Hills, Tanzania 2♂♂; Uluguru Mts, Tanzania 1♂, 1♀; Pare Mts, Tanzania 1♂, 2♀♀; Netia, Mozambique 2♀♀ (BMNH).
P. f. uzungwensis (1) Mwanihana Forest, Tanzania 1♀ (type) (BMNH).

Remarks: The bright yellow belly in this new form is highly distinctive in the field. It is common in the type locality up to at least 1500m, and it probably occupies other suitable areas between the ranges of *tenuirostris* and *alfredi*.

DAPPLED MOUNTAIN ROBIN

Modulatrix orostruthus sanjei subsp. nov.

Type: Adult male collected on 4 August 1981 by F. P. Jensen (original number 192) in Mwanihana Forest, Uzungwa Mts, Tanzania. Elevation 1250m. No. 1981.9.1. BMNH. Specimen prepared by F. P. Jensen.

Diagnosis: Differs from the nominate form in being much more strongly dappled on the underparts, and more olive and less reddish-brown on the wings and tail, sharing with the nominate form the distinct olive flanks. From *amani* it differs in being more strongly dappled, with the olive on the flanks being more extensive and darker, resulting in a much smaller yellow area on the belly. The culmen is longer and broader at the base than in either of the other 2 subspecies (Table 1).

Table 1

Culmen measurements of *Modulatrix orostruthus*

	Culmen from base (mm)	Width of culmen at base (mm)
M. o. orostruthus (type) ♂	21.7	6.9
M. o. amani (type) ♂	21.0	5.9
M. o. amani ♂	21.4	6.5
M. o. amani ♂	20.4	6.8
M. o. amani ♂	20.0	7.0
M. o. sanjei (type) ♂	23.3	7.8

Measurements of type (mm): Wing (chord) 89, tail 76, tarsus 28.6, culmen from base 23.3, weight 32g.

Range: Only known from the type locality at 1250 m in Mwanihana Forest, on the eastern scarp of the Uzungwa Mts, Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, eastern Tanzania. The species itself is known from only 2 other

localities, the nominate form from Namuli Mt, northern Mozambique, 850km to the south, and *amani* from Amani, East Usambara Mts, Tanzania, 400km to the northeast.

Specimens examined:

M. o. orostruthus (1). Namuli Mt, Mozambique 1♂ (type) (BMNH).

M. o. amani (4). Amani, Tanzania 2♂♂ (including type) (BMNH); Amani, Tanzania 2♂♂ (Peabody Museum).

M. o. sanjei (1). Mwanihana Forest, Tanzania 1♂ (type) (BMNH).

Remarks: We follow Benson & Irwin (1975) in placing this species in the genus *Modulatrix*. We name this new form after the village of Sanje, at the edge of the Mwanihana Forest, whose inhabitants have been of great assistance to us in our studies.

SWYNNERTON'S FOREST ROBIN

Swynnertonia swynnertoni rodgersi subsp. nov.

Type: Adult male collected on 17 September 1981 by S. N. Stuart, T. A. van der Willigen and K. M. Howell in Mwanihana Forest, Uzungwa Mts, Tanzania. Elevation 1000m. No. 1981.9.3. BMNH. Specimen prepared by C. A. Msuya.

Diagnosis: The male differs from that of the nominate subspecies in being more yellow and less orange on the breast. It is greyer and less olive on the back, but more olive and less grey on the crown and nape, giving a more uniform appearance. The under-tail coverts are almost white, as opposed to a rather variable buff colour in the nominate form.

We have not examined *S. s. umbratica,* from Mt. Gorongoza, Mozambique, described by Clancey (1974) as having a darker head than the nominate subspecies, with a darker and more rufous breast and sides. This clearly does not apply to the Mwanihana form. The female of *rodgersi* remains to be described.

Measurements of type (mm): Wing (chord) 71, tail 48, tarsus 23.3, culmen from base 16.8.

Range: Only known from the type locality at 1000m in Mwanihana Forest on the eastern scarp of the Uzungwa Mts, Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, Tanzania. This appears to be an extremely isolated subspecies, separated from the 2 southern forms by 1300km.

Specimens examined:

S. s. swynnertoni (15). Chrinda Forest, Zimbabwe 14♂♂ (BMNH); Chirinda Forest, Zimbabwe 1♂ (Cambridge University Museum of Zoology).

S. s. rodgersi (2). Mwanihana Forest, Tanzania 1♂ (type) (BMNH); Mwanihani Forest, Tanzania 1♂ collected by F. P. Jensen on 3 August 1981 (ZMC).

Remarks: We are pleased to name this new form after Dr. W. A. Rodgers, who first drew our attention to the biological importance of Mwanihana Forest. *Swynnertonia s. rodgersi* is known from the skins of only 2 individuals, mist-netted within a few metres of each other. There have been no observations in the field. We follow Irwin & Clancey (1974) in assigning this species to the monotypic genus *Swynnertonia*, rather than *Pogonocichla*.

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The identity of certain early Australian types referred to the Cuculidae

by I. J. Mason

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INTRODUCTION

Between 1788 and 1794 several artists were employed to illustrate natural history subjects at the first settlement of Port Jackson at Sydney Cove. Contrary to Mathews' statement (1911: 16), most of the drawings were of material from the environs of Port Jackson, the rest certainly from Australia (Hindwood 1970). In one set, now known as the 'Watling' drawings, 295 birds were depicted. Only some are signed by Watling, the rest appearing to be the work of unknown artists.

Some of these drawings were used as types by Latham (1801 b). His plates were copies of either the 'Watling' drawings or another set called the 'Lambert' drawings. It is not known from which set Latham derived his descriptions, but it is irrelevant as the Lambert drawings were also copied from the 'Watling' drawings (cf. Hindwood 1970: 19). The 'Watling' drawings therefore, should be considered the types of Latham's descriptions (cf. Schodde & Mason 1980). One of these, the Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cuculus*